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EXAMINER

PITTS, HAROLD I

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2876

DATE MAILED: 06 24 2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/055319

Applicant(s)

SCHEUILL

Examiner

H. J. Pitts

Group Art Unit

2826

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

## Status

- ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are pending in the application.
- ☐ Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
  - ☐ All ☐ Some\* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

## Attachment(s)

- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Office Action Summary

Art Unit: 2876

Rejections will be based on the following criteria the criteria for applicant and/or counsel is ordinary skill in the art, i.e. a knowledge of all prior art including the ability to read, comprehend to point out the claimed invention compared to the prior concepts. The applicant is considered to have the pertinent prior art before him during conception and reduction to practice of the invention in light of this prior art including drafting the specification and claims. The applicant is considered to be aware that to merely substitute or additionally employ one or more teachings of one or more of the references before him in a combinational sense would clearly e within the purview of obviousness, the motivation being the skilled artisan's recognition of the interchangeable teachings of similar systems and the expedient of a substitutive or an additive employment of one or more prior art system concepts to provide a particular solution or to bring about a desired result.

35 USA 112 rejections:

- a. The disclosure, like the claims point out the invention. A disclosure in which the lexicography is unclear. Vague, convoluted or incomplete does not comply with the statute.
- b. A disclosure which merely discusses prior art concepts without really setting a forth on independently arrived at enabling disclosure does not comply.
- C. Claims based on a disclosure as above or are vague, incomplete or merely expressions or desired results do not comply with the statute.

35 USC 103 rejections and motivation.

Art Unit: 2876

The criteria here is skilled artisan who is looking first to the prior art for aid in the conception and reduction to practice phase of inventing and who is technologically skilled in the research of patent and other documentation and in the employment of prior art concepts in substitutive and additive combinations to address and implement a system, having collected and subjected the pertinent prior art (such as cited here in) and viewing the prior art technique of employing the desired inventive concepts in or more combinations to provide successfully similar solutions and which considered in combination address applicant's essential inventive concept, would find in such an addressing the "suggestion" or "suggestions" or "motivation" that the prior art concepts might be successfully employed in combination as set forth in applicant's claims.

35 USC 102 rejections:

A rejection under 35 USC 102 indicates that the claims, drafted in light of one or more references, fail to point and distinctly claim any discernible novel essential inventive concept.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 2876

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-43 are rejected under 35 USC 112 as the presentation is unclear. There are multiple independent dependent claim sets and the dependent claims are presented in permutation. The claims tend to be vague expressions of desired results.

There are also multiple drawing embodiments and partial embodiments to which these vague claim recitations may or may not be drafted. The result is to make the correlation with the drawing structure a higher order mathematical puzzle and co-jointly, the meaning, intent and scope of the claim language so obscure as to be unintelligible.

Each claim should be read term by term on the drawing and the meaning, intent and patentable significance of this limitation discussed with regard to the disclosure, the other claims and the prior art of record.

In view of the above, application of the prior art should, in reality, be held in abeyance until the above requirements are met. However, to advance the issue, an application of the prior art under 35 USC 102/103 will be made on an as understood basis only.

As understood, the claims recite an inventory order system as shown by the prior art of the IDS, Johnson fig. 5, for example, and Kawabata fig. 6, 7 and Wilsford fig. 2, cited by the examiner. A bar code interface is recited for this system such as in Gombrich fig. 21, Perelli fig. 4a and 4b and Williams fig. 1. A veterinary environment is recited such as shown in Pratt fig. 4 and Curkendall fig. 5.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made, to employ the above teachings in a unified system motivated by a desire for a more effective inventory

order system under the rationale of additive, substitutive, and interchangeability of concepts and elements of similar systems.

A specific comparison of the language of all claims should be made with this prior art considered in toto and the patentable novelty and the significance thereof pointed out with reference to quoted specific claim language.

Harold Pitts

703/308-0717

**Harold T. Pitts**  
**Primary Examiner**